

THE CLARION.

By POWER & BARKDALE.

Official Journal of the State of Mississippi.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1883.

Eighty three factories were destroyed in the Havensville, (Massachusetts) fire.

SULLIVAN is liable to five years' imprisonment for leaving the State of Massachusetts to engage in a prize-fight.

Years ago the Legislature of Wisconsin abolished capital punishment. A bill has just passed the Senate providing for its restoration.

News of the disastrous overflow on either side of the river between Memphis and Vicksburg continue to reach us.

The Coffeyville Times says of Hon. R. N. Provine, of Calhoun, what his associates on the floor of the House will all concede that he is a Representative of sound judgment and ability.

We regret to hear of the death of one of the most eminent physicians and best citizens of Yalobusha county, Dr. T. J. Rogers, brother of Mr. David Rogers, the late honored Senator from the 19th District.

The Vicksburg Herald says THE CLARION made a mistake in not supporting Governor Stone for re-election. The CLARION never opened its mouth against him. It neither favors nor opposes candidates for nomination. It supports nominations after they are made.

GOVERNOR LOWRY, in receipt of a telegram stating that Gen. Hancock is en route from Helena to New Orleans. Doubtless going, or returning, he may be induced to visit the Capital in conformity to the invitation of the Legislature, in which the Governor heartily joins.

As an amiable contemporary says that we always get excited when Logan's Grant life salary bill comes up. It is a mistake. Moreover the bill will not be heard of any more. As the Courier-Journal observes, the Senate passed it the other day, but not as Logan desired. The Senate passed it over to consider other business. We are placid.

COL. W. H. JACK, of the Natchitoches, La., bar, has been invited by the Philanthropic Society of Mississippi College at Clinton, to deliver the commencement address before that institution in June, and he has accepted the invitation. The New Orleans States says that Col. Jack is a classical scholar and one of the most eloquent speakers in that State.

New York Herald: The question of Congressional apportionment seems to have resolved itself into a struggle between the larger and smaller States. It is charged that there is a legislative conspiracy between New York, Pennsylvania and Illinois to pass a particular bill on the question which would give those States certain advantages in the number of Congressmen. This has been vehemently denied on the part of the Representatives of the great Commonwealths.

The Department of Agriculture gives the following percentages of last year's cotton crop: North Carolina, 82; South Carolina, 80; Georgia, 86; Florida, 90; Alabama, 86; Mississippi, 80; Louisiana, 86; Texas, 75; Arkansas, 59; Tennessee, 60. The returns of the area make an increase in acreage for 1881 of about 5 per cent., and the total acreage about 16,500,000. The returns of losses by the cotton caterpillar indicate an aggregate loss of 300,000 bales.

THE SENATE has laid on the table, whence it is subject to be called, the general supervision railroad bill (which has passed the House) after considering and amending a number of its provisions. The discussion of the question has shown that the friends of supervisory legislation are in a decided majority, but it has revealed differences as to details. These differences, we trust will be reconciled, and some measure adopted in conformity to the popular demand, and remedying the abuses intended to be reformed. The question is here to stay, and the sooner it is settled, the sooner an irritating agitation will cease.

THE 164 years by which the apportionment bill was passed by the lower House of Congress, consisted of 142 Republicans and 22 Democrats; the 104 years, of 103 Democrats and 1 Republican. From this we have assumed that the bill is a partisan measure in the interest of the Republican party, and that it will be resisted by the Democrats in the Senate, and probably defeated.

CHIEF JUSTICE TANEY ON JUDGE'S INTERVIEW IN PARTY POLITICS: "I am Chief-Justice of the United States. As such, since the year 1836, I have never cast a vote. I never permit any retainer or under-officer of mine to converse with me upon candidates and their prospects. I never give advice or render service voluntarily or involuntarily, upon any side. If any man has affirmed anything on the credit of my name I hold to my neutrality so tenaciously that I refuse to let my name be used for any denial even of an unauthorized falsehood."

This remark reminds us that Mississippi's own illustrious Chief-Justice William L. Sharkey whom the people always elected, scrupulously held himself aloof from party politics. Speaking of Judge Taney, another instance of his idea of the strict abstention of the Judiciary from political affairs, is related: "When the marshal of his court proposed to him the expediency of going to the polls on one occasion to maintain order. Said the Chief-Justice to him: 'Mr. Marshal, you can go to the polls, sir, like every citizen, but if you go as Marshal of my court, you go at your peril.'"

Railroad Policy.
The supervisory plank of our platform, which has been one of our main features for years, and of the Democratic party, should have been the subject of its last, it would have the appearance of inconsistency, as well as suicidal policy.

Immigration.

The Immigration bill which has passed the Senate is pending in the House. It is unnecessary to repeat the truth that no country can be prosperous without the development of her resources, and this cannot be accomplished without a thrifty, industrious population. It is idle to say that the population of Mississippi is adequate to the development of her resources. Her broad expanse of waste lands attest the contrary. It is idle to deprecate the incoming of a thrifty population from Europe, or the North, as some of our correspondents have done, on the assumption that they will bring with them habits of thought, religion and government different from those of our resident population. It has been the boast of our government from its infancy that it is an asylum for the oppressed. It is too late to theorize against foreign immigration. It has been a powerful factor in building up and enriching too many territories, which have grown to be great Commonwealths, to admit of argument against it.

The negro population, which furnishes a considerable part of the agricultural labor of our State, is leaving the hill country and crowding into the swamps, where the fertile soil, when tilled with the hoe, laughs with an abundance of cotton. This movement of the colored population will be accelerated when the projected railroads are finished in that region. But the negro will not supply the demand for agricultural labor there. It must be found elsewhere, and also a population to fill the vacancies in the hill counties as they are filled.

In connection with the increase in the numbers coming to the United States abroad, must be remembered the fact that there remain only 18,000,000 acres of arable land still for occupancy in the United States, and the beginning of the end of the period when desirable agricultural homes may be had for the occupancy, is here. Some of our Eastern contemporaries, given to speculation on this subject, aver that the year 1883 will see all the lands of the United States set down as arable, occupied or taken, and then will begin the competition of British America which is claimed, has 200,000,000 of arable land unoccupied, and which can be had almost for the asking. To compete successfully in obtaining population, as we have said before, will require the expenditure of some money. It will be needed to secure competent agents, and for the dissemination of pamphlets, maps, etc., containing such information as settlers will naturally want to have. And the newcomers must be assured of several things also, besides, cheap and fertile lands. They must be assured of kind treatment, toleration in their religion and politics; and if they are from the Northern States, especially, they must be assured of the right of a "free ballot and a fair count," the "right preservative of all rights." Their resources should not be chilly, but cordial, for they will come to stay and to share our fortunes. Besides, they ought to have an assurance by positive legislative enactment that the capital which actual immigrants invest in agriculture shall be exempt from taxation for a reasonable length of time. In this movement, landowners are interested. Merchants are interested. Manufacturers are interested. Railroads are interested. So are professional men. Population such as we need, and hope to get, makes wealth for the State, and makes business for everybody.

Cotton Factories.

All over the South factories are making money. A contemporary says that in Alabama, the Cottondale factory near Tuscaloosa, is a financial success. The factory at Selma declares handsome dividends. Cotton mills will be built in every city and town and hamlet in the South, and their building should not be discouraged. We want to see our own people engaged in the laudable enterprise. If our people would take hold of the matter in the proper manner, organize companies of their own and combine their capital, we would have no need to clamor for foreign capitalists to come and do for us what we are abundantly able to do for ourselves. Only a few persons have much idle capital, but many have small sums combined, and if put into a factory, they would yield a handsome dividend. These are scarcely a merchandise failure which does not carry with a loss to innocent depositors. Let these people instead of leaving their money in the hands of merchants at 6 or 10 per cent. interest combine their capital and invest in factories which will pay better and be a sure investment.

Death of Bishop Wightman.

Bishop W. M. Wightman, D.D., LL.D., of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, died at his residence in Charleston, South Carolina, on yesterday morning, in the 76th year of his age, after a long and painful illness. For forty years he was one of the distinguished men in his denomination. As a pulpit orator he obtained wide celebrity when quite a young man. For years he was editor of the Southern Christian Advocate and a writer of rare taste and elegance. In the great controversy which resulted in the separation of 1844 and the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, he bore a prominent and influential part. To the day of his death he was an ardent Southerner and felt a true pride in the restoration and progress of his native land. He was for a term of years President of Wofford College, in South Carolina, and was Chancellor of the Southern University at Greensboro, Ala., when in 1866, he was elevated to the Episcopacy. In this high office his power in the pulpit was felt through out the South and West. His last Episcopal tour was to the far west, visiting Montana, Oregon and California. For scholarship and eloquence, he ranked with the master spirits of his native State, so fruitful of great men, and in whose generous bosom a Christian of eminent private piety, which ripened into the pure. Truly a prince in Israel has fallen, and the whole Southland will mourn his loss. His death leaves only five Southern Methodist Bishops, and but two of them are really effective.

An amiable correspondent complains that we have "too much Legislature" in our paper. As the Legislature comes but once in two years, he might afford to stand it.

Reports of Railway Commissioners in Other States.

Pending the consideration of the general Railroad bill in the Legislature, and pertinent to the discussion, we have culled some few extracts from the reports of Commissioners from other States.

The Railway Commissioner of Ohio, in his report of this year says that railroad companies "exercise their business primarily, not as a matter of right, but by virtue of powers granted by the State," and they must "make a proper showing to this office (of the Commissioner) of all matters of a public interest." The Commissioner says that the State created the office because railways may build up or destroy by discrimination the towns of the State, and because the State has responsibility for the safety of passengers and freight transported, and to prevent fraudulent and unwise management. The Commissioner adds: "Ohio's railways interests are large and growing. The tendency of railways interests is towards consolidation. Consolidation means power, and if anything is to be dreaded from the use of that power, it is not too early to establish firmly and support promptly an efficient means of control. In England the Commissioners have almost complete control."

The Ohio Commissioner endorses what the U. S. Senate Committee says as follows:

"The duty of the statesman is to inquire as to the danger of leaving the property and industrial interests of the people thus wholly at the mercy of a few individuals, and to responsibility to stockholders and no principle of action but personal and corporate aggrandizement."

In conclusion the Commissioner says: "Only our people are largely interested as owners of the capital thus invested; and it is, therefore, highly important that the financial and physical condition of these roads be ascertained with the highest accuracy, and in this view it is desired that the laws be so revised, in some particulars, as to enable the Commissioner to secure such data, and prompt and reliable information, as may enable him to fully discharge the important duties of his office. But for the existence of railroads, the most complete facilities, the examination could not have been made with the highest accuracy available for this purpose. There are exceptional cases where the management of a railroad is negligent of the means for such data, and prompt and reliable information, as may enable him to fully discharge the important duties of his office. 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